UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,318	08/19/2003	Jaime Singson	OR03-04001	6010

51067 7590 01/04/2007 ORACLE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION c/o PARK, VAUGHAN & FLEMING LLP 2820 FIFTH STREET DAVIS, CA 95618-7759	**EXAMINER** DARNO, PATRICK A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2163	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/04/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 10/06)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/644,318	SINGSON ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Patrick A. Darno	2163	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _23 October 2006_.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-3,5-16,18-29 and 31-39_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-3,5-16,18-29 and 31-39_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _19 August 2003_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 4, 17, and 30 are cancelled. Claims 1, 14, and 27 have been amended. Claims 2,

10-12, 15, 23-25, 28, and 36-38 are as previously presented. Claims 3, 5-9, 13, 15-16, 18-22, 26,

29, 31-35, and 39 are in their original form. Claims 1-3, 5-16, 18-29, and 31-39 are pending in

this office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

2.   Claims 1-3, 5-16, 18-29, and 31-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2005/0033726 issued to Ju Wu et

al. (hereinafter "Wu") and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication Number

2003/0018605 issued to Gary Willman Policastro et al (hereinafter "Policastro").

Claim 1:

Wu discloses a method for facilitating data stewardship for metadata in a data warehouse

system, comprising:

creating metadata, under the control of a user, for use in the data warehouse system *(Wu:*

paragraph [0035]; Note specifically lines 8-10, "end users employing a metadata consumer access business views."

This shows that the users access the actual data with the aid of metadata. Then on lines 13-16 the phrase "At each

level, business users responsible for preparing mapped data....". This preparing of mapped data is the creation of

metadata for use in a data warehouse system.);

moving the metadata, under the control of a super user, into and out of a collection,

thereby securing the metadata *(Wu: paragraph [0011], lines 7-10 and paragraph [0025] paragraph [0034] and*

paragraph [0037] and Fig. 15; The data foundation is the collection. The word administrator as used in this

reference is a generic term that includes "regional managers", "data administrators", and "data managers". This

distinction can be made perfectly clear by reading Wu: paragraph [0037]. Paragraph [0037] shows that the original

data foundations are "created by regional managers". It further shows that data administrators can "add the

relevant data connections previously created". Finally, the definition of a data manager is one who handles,

controls, or directs data. Paragraph [0034] shows that the regional manager (or administrator or super user) creates

the data foundation (collection) by using a GUI to select tables and columns from a variety of data sources. This

selecting of tables and columns from a variety of data sources results in moving metadata into and out of a collection

(data foundation). The data foundation draws its data from columns and tables (normal operation in a relational

database.). The metadata is the data mapping and linking involved in connecting the columns and tables into a data

foundation (or collection).);

assigning, under the control of the super user, a data steward for the collection *(Wu:*

paragraph [0037] and [0054], lines 1-4; The data stewards are the data managers referred to in paragraph [0037],

line 4. In paragraph [0037] it is important to note that Wu discloses all types of possible users claimed by the

applicant. The regional manager is the super user, the data manager is the data steward, the data administrators are

the collection administrators, and the users are simply the normal users. And note in paragraph [0054] that the

administrators (or regional manager or super user) control which tables and columns that users can or cannot

access. The only characteristic that distinguishes between administrative users (super users, administrators, data

stewards or managers, etc.) and regular users is the level of access that a given user has to certain data. Since the

administrative user here is allowed to control access to all data, the administrative user can grant or assign a data

steward for a given collection by simply giving the user to be designated data steward the necessary access to the

data in a given collection (or data foundation).);

manipulating, under the control of the data steward, the metadata in the collection,

wherein manipulating the metadata involves securing the metadata and performing

administration operations on the collection *(Wu: paragraph [0080]; Note that it is "possible for*

administrators to create and modify metadata service objects" (performing administrative operations"). The

administrator in this case would be the "data manager" (or data steward) given the correct responsibilities by the

overall administrator (regional manager) in order to manage a particular collection (or data foundation).).

The Examiner is confident that Wu discloses, or at the very least suggests, all of the

elements of the Applicant's claimed invention, as noted above. The Examiner is also confident

that the data manager disclosed in the Wu reference is in fact what the Applicant refers to as a

'data steward'. It should also be noted for the record that the administrators (regional manager

or super user) disclosed by Wu is able to customize a given user to have a variety of different

access control permissions *(Wu: paragraph [0054])*. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would

assume that it would be obvious to such an administrator to customize a given user to have the

amount of access or permissions granted as the administrator sees fit.

Furthermore, the Wu reference suggests a method implementing a variety of different

users, which clearly implies that each different user is granted different types of permissions by

the controlling administrator, regional manger, or super user *(Wu: paragraph [0037] and paragraph*

[0054]). There would be no need to give a user a different title, titles which clearly show a

hierarchy of authority, if the access or permissions did not vary across the group. If all access or

permissions granted to each user were the same, each user would have the same title.

But, even in light of the above suggestions, it is important to note that the Wu reference

does not explicitly disclose wherein only the data steward can manipulate the metadata in the

collection, and wherein manipulating the metadata includes editing and deleting metadata.

However, Policastro discloses wherein only the data steward can manipulate the metadata

in the collection *(Policastro: paragraph [0052], lines 1-8)*, and wherein manipulating the metadata

includes editing and deleting metadata *(Policastro: page 6, Table 1, Step 3; Note Specifically "Permit the*

data steward to modify and/or remove decision support code description.").

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to modify the teachings of Wu with the teachings of Policastro noted above for the

purpose of granting the specific authority to a data steward wherein only the data steward can

manipulate the metadata in a given collection of data *(Policastro: paragraph [0052], lines 1-8)*. The

skilled artisan would have been motivated to improve the teachings of Wu per the above such

that a particular data steward is given the responsibility to be a custodian of a particular set of

data *(Policastro: paragraph [0030], lines 3-6)*.

Claim 2:

The combination Wu and Policastro discloses all the elements of claim 1, as noted above,

and Wu further discloses comprising moving metadata, under the control of a collection

administrator, into and out of the collection *(Wu: paragraph [0037]; Note particularly lines 13-15 of*

paragraph [0037] where the data administrator is allowed to modify the relevant data connections (or metadata)

originally set up by the super user (or regional manager).).

Claim 3:

The combination of Wu and Policastro discloses all the elements of claim 1, as noted

above, and Wu further discloses wherein the data steward includes more than one individual *(Wu:*

paragraph [0037], line 4; This uses the plural form of the word "data manager". This means that there ~~must~~ be

more than one data steward.).

Claim 5:

The combination of Wu and Policastro discloses all the elements of claim 1, as noted

above, and Wu further discloses wherein the collection is related to a specified domain *(Wu:*

paragraph [0037]; Note that the collection (data foundation) is related to geographical regions. The domain is a

geographical region.).

Claim 6:

The combination of Wu and Policastro discloses all the elements of claim 1, as noted

above, and Wu further discloses wherein the data steward can be a data steward for more than

one collection *(Wu: paragraph [0054], lines 1-4; The overall administrator controls access all collections (data*

foundation). If the administrator wishes to grant control to multiple collections to one data manager (or data

steward) the administrator can. However, doing so is simply a design choice.).

Claim 7:

The combination of Wu and Policastro discloses all the elements of claim 1, as noted

above, and Wu further discloses wherein the super user has access to the metadata within a

plurality of collections *(Wu: paragraph [0054], lines 4-7; Note that the overall administrator creates the data*

foundations (has access to collections) for the whole enterprise. Then the business views of each portion of the

enterprise are delegated to other users.).

Claim 8:

The combination of Wu and Policastro discloses all the elements of claim 1, as noted

above, and Wu further discloses wherein the metadata can include data descriptions *(Wu:*

paragraph [0005], lines 6-12; This is the very definition of metadata. All metadata is a description of data.).

Claim 9:

The combination of Wu and Policastro discloses all the elements of claim 1, as noted

above, and Wu further discloses wherein the metadata can include procedures related to the data

warehouse system *(Wu: paragraphs [0005] and [0011], lines 8-9; The metadata is used to deal with how the*

information is collected and formatted. Further the metadata is used to create business views allowing reporting

and analysis of the information. Using metadata to create reports is a "procedure" as defined by the applicant in

paragraph [0037] of the applicant's specification.).

Claim 10:

The combination of Wu and Policastro discloses all the elements of claim 1, as noted

above, and Wu further discloses comprising:

creating, under the control of the user a new metadata; and

requesting, under the control of the user, that the new metadata be moved to the

collection *(Wu: paragraph [0035] and [0054]; See rejection of claim 1 for further explanation of this paragraph.*

Also note paragraph [0054], lines 1-4 where it is disclosed that the overall administrator grants access to resources

as the administrator sees fit.).

Claim 11:

The combination of Wu and Policastro discloses all the elements of claim 1, as noted

above, and Wu further discloses comprising manipulating metadata, under the control of the

user, that the user owns and that does not belong to the collection *(Wu: paragraph [0035] and [0054];*

Again the overall administrator (or regional director or super user) has the authority to grant permission to a user

to access a given set of resources. The access to files is determined by the administrator (or super user) and is a

design choice.).

Claim 12:

The combination of Wu and Policastro discloses all the elements of claim 1, as noted

above, and Wu further discloses comprising creating metadata, under the control of the data

steward, within a folder in the collection, wherein creating metadata within the folder

automatically causes the metadata to be added to the collection *(Wu: paragraph [0035], [0037], and*

[0054]; Paragraph [0035] discloses allowing a user to create metadata ("business elements", "mapped data", and

"metadata consumer access business views"). This is done while editing/creating a data foundation (collection).

And this collection must be in a folder (all computer files are in some sort of hierarchical grouping such as a folder).

So the edits/additions are created inside a folder and the metadata is added to the collection. For any further

explanation of the cited references see preceding rejections.).

Claim 13:

The combination of Wu and Policastro discloses all the elements of claim 1, as noted

above, and Wu further discloses:

wherein only the super user can create/delete a collection;

wherein only the super user can update the collection by moving metadata to/from the

collection *(Wu: paragraphs [0034] and [0037]; See rejection of claim 1 for further explanation of these*

references.).

Claim 14:

Claim 14 is a computer program product claim corresponding to method claim 1 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1.

Claim 15:

Claim 15 is a computer program product claim corresponding to method claim 2 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 2.

Claim 16:

Claim 16 is a computer program product claim corresponding to method claim 3 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 3.

Claim 18:

Claim 18 is a computer program product claim corresponding to method claim 5 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 5.

Claim 19:

Claim 19 is a computer program product claim corresponding to method claim 6 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 6.

Claim 20:

Claim 20 is a computer program product claim corresponding to method claim 7 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 7.

Claim 21:

The combination of Wu and Policastro discloses all the elements of claim 14, as noted above, and Wu further discloses wherein more than one data steward can be a data steward for a specified collection *(Wu: paragraph [0054], lines 1-4; The overall administrator controls access to all*

collections (data foundation). If the administrator wishes to grant control to multiple collections to multiple data managers (or data stewards) the administrator can. The administrator would simply grant necessary access to the individuals the administrator desires to be data managers (or data stewards). However, doing so is simply a design choice.).

Claim 22:

Claim 22 is a computer program product claim corresponding to method claim 9 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 9.

Claim 23:

Claim 23 is a computer program product claim corresponding to method claim 10 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 10.

Claim 24:

Claim 24 is a computer program product claim corresponding to method claim 11 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 11.

Claim 25:

Claim 25 is a computer program product claim corresponding to method claim 12 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 12.

Claim 26:

Claim 26 is a computer program product claim corresponding to method claim 13 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 13.

Claim 27:

Claim 27 is an apparatus claim corresponding to method claim 1 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1.

Claim 28:

Claim 28 is an apparatus claim corresponding to method claim 2 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 2.

Claim 29:

Claim 29 is an apparatus claim corresponding to method claim 3 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 3.

Claim 31:

Claim 31 is an apparatus claim corresponding to method claim 5 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 5.

Claim 32:

Claim 32 is an apparatus claim corresponding to method claim 6 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 6.

Claim 33:

Claim 33 is an apparatus claim corresponding to method claim 7 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 7.

Claim 34:

Claim 34 is an apparatus claim corresponding to method claim 8 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 8.

Claim 35:

Claim 35 is an apparatus claim corresponding to method claim 9 and is rejected under the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 9.

Claim 36:

Claim 36 is an apparatus claim corresponding to method claim 10 and is rejected under

the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 10.

Claim 37:

Claim 37 is an apparatus claim corresponding to method claim 11 and is rejected under

the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 11.

Claim 38:

Claim 38 is an apparatus claim corresponding to method claim 12 and is rejected under

the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 12.

Claim 39:

Claim 39 is an apparatus claim corresponding to method claim 13 and is rejected under

the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 13.

Response to Arguments

Applicant Argues:

Wu does not teach producing data, metadata, or altering the storage of data (see Wu, page 3,
paragraph [0040], lines 5-9). Furthermore, note that Wu's teachings on security are limited to placing
restrictions on data views (see Wu, page 3, paragraph [0042], lines 2-5, and see Wu, page 4, paragraph
[0053]).

Examiner Responds:

Examiner is not persuaded. The Examiner has very thoroughly and specifically

addressed each and every limitation of the claimed invention in the above office action.

Furthermore, the Examiner agrees with the Applicant that the Wu reference does not produce

the actual underlying data that is stored in a data store. This fact is accurately referenced in

Wu: paragraph [0040], lines 5-7. However, the Wu reference does in fact disclose the creation of

metadata in Wu: paragraph [0035] as is clearly explained in the preceding office action.

Furthermore, Wu's teachings on security are not strictly limited to placing restrictions on

data views. Wu clearly teaches that the metadata of the invention, which as noted above is

moved into and out of collections by super users, is used to implement security operations (Wu:

paragraph [0011], lines 7-10 and paragraph [0025] and Fig. 15).

Accordingly, the rejections originally given under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been upheld.

Applicant Argues:

. In contrast, the present invention teaches a method for securing and manipulating metadata in a
database (see page 3, paragraph [0009], see page 4, paragraph [0010], lines 1-2, and see page 9,
paragraph [0037], lines 1-2 of the instant application). Note that securing is not equivalent to controlling
who can view a business view. For example, assume an organization has a database of numbers.
Following Wu, the organization can control who views the numbers. In contrast, the present invention
enables the organization to control who accesses metadata associated with the numbers. For example,
the present invention can control who can access the metadata that describes the numbers as purchase
order numbers. Without access to the metadata that describes the numbers as purchase order numbers, a
user would not find the numbers data very useful. The present invention enables an organization to secure
the metadata associated with data. This is advantageous because organizations often overlook securing
metadata when designing a system to secure data.

Examiner Responds:

Examiner is not persuaded. First, in the arguments set forth above, it is noted that the

features upon which Applicant relies are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the

claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read

into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Furthermore, the Examiner directs the Applicant to paragraph [0040], lines 9-12. Wu

clearly describes his invention as something which "serves as a lens to provide a view of the

corporate information landscape. That is, it establishes only an abstract data structure that, in essence, is a structured summary of the source data." This description clearly shows that the Wu reference does more than simply control who can view data. The metadata of the Wu reference shapes the data into a form that is better understood by the user. This is essentially what the Applicant is describing in the immediately preceding arguments.

Accordingly, the rejections originally given under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are upheld.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick A. Darno whose telephone number is (571) 272-0788. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 5:30 pm.
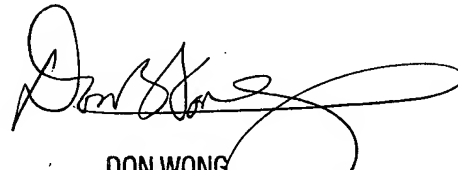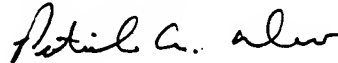
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated

information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Patrick A. Darno
Examiner
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PAD

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